

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 1-35 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's affidavit submitted on 01-08-11 distinguishes the current claims over the prior art used in the previous rejections. The prior art does not contain the claimed solvent extraction solution used in the process of claim 1.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric Demaster on 01-18-11.

The application has been amended as follows:

Change(s) applied to document,  
/J.L.W./  
2/28/2011

In claim 1, the last phrase in last line that says <sup>the</sup> ~~an~~ "aqueous phase" should be "an aqueous phase."

The phrase "an organic phase" in line 1 of claim 4 should read "the organic phase."

In claim 16, the words "the target elements" of line 3 should be removed and replaced with "the nickel, cobalt or both."

In claim 20 the "and" after the word "wherein" in line 1 should be removed.